

**Substance Abuse Services Commission  
Meeting of September 9, 2015  
DHHS Building, 41 Anthony Avenue, Augusta, Maine  
Conference Room C**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present:**

Peter McCorison, Provider, Aroostook County, Chair for SASC  
Ann Giggey, Hope House  
Irene Laney, Clinician in Private Practice  
Bill Lowenstein, Pres. Of the Board of Dir. of Sexual Assault & Response Services  
Scott Gagnon, Prevention, Healthy Androscoggin & AdCare Maine  
Darren Ripley, MAAR  
Rep. Patricia Hymanson (Phone)

**Members Absent/Excused:**

Robert Rogers, Kennebec Behavioral Health  
Ann Dorney, MD, Physician in Private Practice  
Rep. Adam Goode  
Rep. Richard Malaby  
Rep. Peter Stuckey  
Diehl Snyder, MD  
Thomas Leonard, School Administrative Leader

**Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services:**

Geoff Miller, Associate Director, Prevention & Intervention, SAMHS  
Joan Smyrski, Associate Director, Treatment & Recovery, SAMHS

**Guests:**

Neill Miner, Director, AdCare Maine  
Deborah Doiron, Recorder, AdCare Maine  
Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA  
Gordon Smith, Executive Vice President, Maine Medical Assoc.

**Substance Abuse Services Commission Meeting  
September 9, 2015  
DHHS Building, 41 Anthony Avenue, Augusta, Maine  
Conference Room C**

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

<b>DRAFT Date:</b>	<b>September 11, 2015</b>	<b>SASC Approved:</b>	
<b>Signed:</b> Recorded by: Deborah Doiron & Neill Miner AdCare Maine			

**Meeting Convened:** 9:00 A.M.

**Adjourned:** 12:00 AM

**Meeting Convened:** By Peter McCorison

**Agenda:**

- Introductions and Public Comments, Review of the June & July Minutes

**New Business:**

- SAMHS Update, Geoff Miller, Associate Director
- Gordon H. Smith, Executive Vice President, Maine Medical Association, Discussion on Opioid challenges in Maine and MAT/MAR

**BREAK 10 Min.**

- Work on action plan to engage State of Maine around increased access to MAT/MAR

**Old Business:**

- Update on Commission Membership List
- Prepare Agenda Items for meeting on October 14, 2015

**Meeting Adjourned: 11:00**

## **September 9, 2015 SASC Meeting Summary**

### **Peter McCorison, Chairperson**

#### **Introductions, Public Comment, and Meeting Minutes Review**

Peter McCorison welcomed and thanked members and guests for coming to the meeting. Introductions were given. Peter asked if there were any public comments from the community. There were no public comments. Peter asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Peter announced that Darren Ripley would be showing a presentation on mapping of recovery services and supports throughout Maine. He also announced that Gordon Smith would be coming around 9:40 to speak about what the Commission's role could be regarding increasing medication assisted recovery in the State of Maine. Peter stated that the SASC meeting would be ending the at 11:00 to allow members to attend a Strategic Planning Workforce Development Forum: Building Capacity in Maine's Behavioral Health Workforce to Support the Delivery of Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependency Across Systems. This is a meeting to be held at the Maine Principals Association from 12:30 – 3:30. This is in partnership with AdCare and the Co-occurring Collaborative Serving Maine. This event will be bringing together physicians, physical and behavioral health providers to continue discussions on how can we increase access to medication assisted/treatment/recovery in the State of Maine.

**Review of June and July SASC Minutes:** Due to the lack of a quorum, the review and approval of the June and July minutes was moved forward to the next scheduled meeting on October 14, 2015. Bill Lowenstein mentioned that in the July minutes Joan Smyrski's name had been misspelled. Deb will make the correction.

#### **Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:**

Deborah Doiron will make some minor corrections to the June and July minutes before the next review of these minutes in October.

### **NEW BUSINESS – September Agenda**

- **SAMHS Update, Geoff Miller, Associate Director:** Geoff Miller introduced Joan Smyrski to the Commission members.
  - 1) **Contracts** – Most contracts have been completed now, and if not, providers should be contacting SAMHS. The contracting process has been more rigorous than in the past, because of the legal expertise SAMHS has available now and the reworking of contract language. These changes make the contracts more accountable, with the use of performance measures. As it moves forward, SAMHS will be monitoring the contracts, making sure these contracts are being spent down appropriately. If there are services that are not being used, then there needs to be some discussion about why and possibly reallocating these funds to more needy areas. Bill Lowenstein asked Geoff if there are currently providers that are not providing services because they are without a written contract. Joan Smyrski stated that to her knowledge on the

Treatment side there have not been any providers doing business without a contract. Geoff Miller stated that SAMHS's is encouraging providers to review and move along their contracts as quickly as possible. Joan also mentioned that in some provider contractors, they have seen some providers not spending down the contracted funds. Joan stated that they are looking into using this unused money for uninsured individuals seeking substance abuse addiction services.

- 2) **Budget** – There will be a supplemental budget coming out. Geoff doesn't know if it will be extensive. Joan Smyrski stated that it was her understanding that there would be just some minor changes.
- 3) **SAMHS New Hires & Vacancies** - SAMHS has about 12 vacancies in the office. Postings have gone out. There are 2 intensive case manager positions: one for Two Rivers, and one for the mental health wing at the Maine State Prison. SAMHS has also hired a support staff for Region II and another individual as the Region II Field Service Manager. Laurie Mitchell is now the Crisis Service Manager for the State and she will be part of the Intervention Services at SAMHS. SAMHS is also trying to move some contracted positions to State lines. SAMHS has now hired Nick Snyder, as legal counsel for the office. Nick will be reviewing rules and RFP language. Joan stated that SAMHS has 49% of all of the contracts in the entire DHHS to process and monitor;
- 4) **Opioid & Heroin Epidemic** – Geoff Miller mentioned Senator Angus King's Roundtable Forum in Bangor, Maine and Governor LePage's Summit. Geoff stated that he has not seen any action notes or any steps coming out from Angus King's Forum in Bangor or Governor LePage's Summit in Augusta. Joan Smyrski did participate in one event. Bill Lowenstein reinforced that we still need to include recovery in these discussions. Scott Gagnon mentioned that it appears there are going to be some working groups, but had no further information on this yet. Peter mentioned that maybe the Commission could bring these working groups together. Geoff also stated that we need to include prevention in our strategies and work with entities across the spectrum. Geoff stated that one of the things the State Health Implementation Plan is doing is making a shift towards outcomes and goals. The State is trying to collect information on hospital prescribing protocols to see what they have in place and then come up with key components of best practices. Geoff also mentioned there is a Marijuana Summit coming up soon. Peter questioned members about what it is the Commission could do to help the State with these heroin and opiate overdoses. Darren Ripley also reminded Geoff about the issue of Recovery not being listed on the SAMHS website as a link to information. Joan Smyrsky stated she would support Matt Wells in completing this project;

**Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:**

Joan Smyrsky, Associate Director for Treatment and Recovery will assist Matt Wells, the Recovery Manager in completing the request from the Commission to address the lack of information listed on SAMHS website regarding Recovery.

- **Gordon H. Smith, Executive Vice President, Maine Medical Association, Discussion on Opioid challenges in Maine and MAT/MAR**

## **Discussion:**

Peter introduced Gordon Smith, Executive Vice President of the Maine Medical Association, as a guest speaker. The Commission has worked with Gordon Smith in the past and most recently in an effort to increase participation in the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The purpose of inviting Gordon was to have a discussion of what is it that the Commission could do to help foster and support stronger collaboration between the physical health and behavioral health providers and to increase access to Medicated Assisted Treatment and Medication Assisted Recovery (MAT/MAR) in the State of Maine, in the face of this significant opiate issue. Peter McCorison mentioned this issue has been on the Commission's to do list for a while and with everything that is going on right now, the Commission would like to move forward. Peter asked Gordon if there was anything he could think of that the Commission could do to help support these efforts.

Gordon Smith began the discussion by distributing two handouts to the Commission members. The first handout was labeled MICIS, Opioid Prescribing Module Now Available, an information and registration sheet for those providers who want to attend learning session(s) currently being offered. The other handout was a draft of the Maine Medical Association, Resolution #2 RE: Actions in Response to Opioid Problem, Proposed by the MMA Board of Directors.

Gordon stated there are some things the Commission could do that are timely right now. He stated his goal for today was to share what is going on that the Association knows about. He states there has been a long history on the issue of opioids in Maine, with this issue going back and forth in urgency, but now these issues are back on the forefront, because of an increase in heroin use, and heroin deaths, overdoses, and babies born exhibiting withdrawal symptoms. Gordon attended Senator Angus King's Forum held last week where they had a round table forum, which included Senator Angus King, Michael Botticelli, U.S. District Attorney, Tom Delahanty, Chellie Pingree, and at least three of the SASC members in this meeting. The minutes of this meeting were taken by a representative from Eastern Maine and will be cleaned up and given to anyone who would like a copy. This was a public meeting by invitation only, because of the size of the room. They had hoped to invite about 50 people from the treatment, prevention and law enforcement communities and ended up with about 70 people. Gordon stated that he was given the privilege of moderating this discussion and stated that for the most part, he felt everyone who wanted to speak, got a chance to make statements. He feels the notes were well done and would be good to read. Gordon also spoke of Governor LePage's Summit that took place the next day, which included U.S. District Attorney Delahanty, Attorney Janet Mills, Dan Perry and three or four other people, who attended both events. He felt at the end of the day, it sounded as though both of these events had very similar discussions and outcomes. As a result of these discussions, the U.S. District Attorney is organizing three task forces, which will consist of treatment, prevention and law enforcement. This is where Gordon feels the Commission can be involved. Gordon stated that his Association has been asked to organize these groups. He has a meeting on Monday and it is hoped these task forces would be established quickly and include reporting to a steering committee. He thinks that the treatment and prevention task forces would be something the Commission should be invited to attend, depending on their resources. He feels these task forces will be quite intense. Gordon says there are good

things going on right now, but there are also barriers to success. Then he discussed the Resolution #2 RE: Actions in Response to Opioid Problem Proposed by the MMA Board of Directors. It is Gordon's opinion, we now have an opportunity through grants to give Maine support to implement some projects that would have a positive impact. He feels we should take small steps to do as many positive things as possible. Clearly, the most important thing is to have more treatment available to people, once they have been assessed. He stated we also have to educate the public regarding this disease, so as to create a better understanding. We also need to come up with some tools to make it more attractive for primary care physicians to become Suboxone licensed. The eight hours of education isn't really an issue. Gordon said we need to encourage the federal government to participate in this process. He also said the second greatest concrete thing is to expand Medicaid to individuals who do not have insurance, so that you don't have places like Mercy Hospital's treatment program closing their services. Gordon felt one solution could be a partial expansion – a proposal to give coverage to individuals who have none. Gordon discussed several initiatives on responsible prescribing funded by MaineCare. One module is designed to train providers and to inform them of what the most effective and cost effective drugs are. MMA has received a grant from the Harold Rogers Fund from the Department of Justice in the amount of \$10,000 - \$15,000. MMA subcontracts to do as many programs around the state as they can, largely increasing the use of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). These programs are presented by John Lipovsky from SAMHS, Stephanie Nichols and himself.

Gordon expressed hope that someone from the Commission could be involved in at least two of these newly created task forces. Geoff Miller stated that he could give some recommendations of people who would be good choices for attendance at these task forces. Gordon stated we need to get people with the expertise, experience, and education to be involved. Neill Miner asked about the emerging commitment at the local level. Neill stated that the medical professional's health program might be a resource in terms of understanding that perspective. Gordon stated that he would talk with Dr. Graham about this.

Geoff Miller talked about affected others and having conversations sooner with youth. He has gathered some information from young people who did a presentation earlier last year. These youth said having an honest conversation with their parents would have been very helpful.

Bill asked if there was any mechanism to adjust the reimbursement rates. Gordon said it is the legislature that makes the decisions on this..

Rep. Patricia Hymanson mentioned a funding source regarding HRSA grants – these are federal grants coming into the community to mental health centers and other community health centers. She has been involved with a health center that is currently using these funds specifically for supporting addiction services. She wonders if it is possible these funds could be used for creating suboxone services. Irene Laney stated that Hancock County had not heard anything about these funds. Joan Smyrsky stated this funding may be coming from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Geoff also stated that he is on the grants.gov system, and he hasn't heard anything either.

Bill Lowenstein stated that people in long term recovery also have experience with systems and can bring perspectives, which also includes youth voices. He also wants to encourage the MMA to continue a public health discussion around these issues, not just the addiction part, but all the other complications that can come with addiction, contracting infections from needles or sexual habits, deteriorating health conditions because of the overuse of drugs, and a long list of other ailments. Gordon agreed that all of these health issues should be addressed.

Irene Laney had a question regarding the funding for uninsured clients: Do we have any clarity about funds for uninsured people? Joan Smyrsky stated that Sheldon Wheeler, Director of SAMHS took a look at the contracted funds allocated to providers and some funds were not being spent down and when funds are not spent, these funds can get used for other causes. Joan Smyrsky said she is pulling these unspent funds into an account which could be used to fund uninsured individuals sometime in the future. As yet, these funds are not readily available.

#### **BREAK: 10 minutes**

- **MAT/MAR** – Work on action plan to engage State of Maine around increased access to MAT/MAR.

Ann Giggey said she would like to see the reports from Senator King's Forum and roundtable discussion and Governor LePage's Summit. Peter McCorison asked Geoff Miller if he could access these reports and get copies to the Commission. Peter also stated that the Commission should explore why SAMHS has not been included in these discussions and the creation of the three task forces. Peter stated it is his feeling that the Commission should advocate for the inclusion of representation from SAMHS in these task forces, especially the treatment and prevention.

Geoff Miller also discussed following best practice, where medication assisted treatment is concerned and having staff imbedded in the process by not allowing providers to prescribe Suboxone, until they have set up the individual with counseling services to go along with the medication. He also mentioned replicating the Angel Project and having Prevention within the primary care setting. Peter McCorison stated there are challenges with getting a person detoxed, without enough support systems. Geoff stated one key point is the State doesn't have the resources to accommodate these individuals, when they come in for help for their addictions. Joan Smyrsky also mentioned a different project a few states have started implementing.

#### **Recommendations:**

- 1) Get the minutes from both Senator King's Forum and Governor LePage's Summit
- 2) Members of Commission invited to participate in the newly created task forces
- 3) Advocate for SAMHS to play a role in these task forces
- 4) SAMHS to look into the HRSA funds – for the community health centers use – Rep. Patricia Hymanson is going to call her connection to find out more information
- 5) Encourage global health discussions; not just narkan, suboxone; much more ramifications and complicated;
- 6) Determine how do these three task forces communicate with the community.

**Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:**

Geoff Miller, Associate Director, Prevention & Intervention, SAMHS will research and get the minutes from both meeting for the Commission. Rep. Patricia Hymanson will find out more information regarding the HRSA funds and bring back to the next Commission meeting.

- **Darren Ripley, MAAR, Overview of the Community Asset Map – Presentation**

Darren Ripley explained that the mapping is not finished yet, but is still a work in progress. He gathered his information by sending out surveys via hard copies and e-mails. He was able to do this project because of a small BRSS TCS grant on Recovery MAAR received and he decided to do a community asset map, so it would be available as a resource for people and organizations. Darren went over the mapping entries with the Commission members. Darren stated that this link can be imbedded onto any web page to make it available through your organization for individuals looking for resources.

Bill Lowenstein said he would like to see the Sexual Assault Crisis Centers listed. Bill will send Darren a link, so these can be included. Darren said if anyone has anything else they would like to see added to send it to him soon. Darren said he has certain required data he definitely has to include in this asset map, but he is also working to include other entities that are not required by the grant. Bill stated that after the mapping is completed, then we can see where the areas are that we are lacking in services.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Update on Commission Membership List:**

Peter McCorison connected with Scott VanOrman, who provided Peter with an updated list; At this time Scott VanOrman is working to fill all the vacant seats on the Commission. These include Attorney, Education Practitioner, First and Secondary, 3 seats available and a Post-secondary prevention position.

**Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person:**

Peter McCorison will continue to be in contact with Scott VanOrman regarding adding the new members to the Commission.

- **Prepare Agenda Items for meeting on October 14, 2015**

Agenda wasn't developed at this meeting. Peter stated he would develop an agenda for Deb to send out for the next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned: 11:00**

**Next Meeting Location:**

DHHS Building, 41 Anthony Avenue, Augusta, Me.

Conference Room C

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon



